

Message Text

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12

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15

MBFR-03 ACDA-19 SAJ-01 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01

RSR-01 /130 W

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R 171650Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1857

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION NATO

UNCLAS THE HAGUE 3638

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR NL US EEC

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT OF EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT BLASTS EC GOVERNMENTS
AND U.S.

1. SUMMARY: IN SPEECH GIVEN AUGUST 16 TO HAGUE DIPLOMATIC CORPS CLUB, EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT (EP) PRESIDENT BERKHOUWER READ OUT CATALOG OF COMPLAINTS AGAINST EC GOVERNMENTS RELATING TO INEFFICIENCY OF EC AND LACK OF DEMOCRATIC CONTROL. FEW OF EC NINE WERE SPARED POINTED CRITICISM, BUT FRENCH BORE BRUNT OF BERKHOUWER'S DUTCH UNCLE LECTURE. BERKHOUWER PUT EC GOVERNMENTS ON NOTICE THAT EP INTENDED TO PLAY WATCHDOG ROLE TO ENSURE THAT ALL OF OCTOBER 1972 EC SUMMIT GOALS ARE ACHIEVED, AND SUGGESTED EP AS IDEAL FORUM FOR EUROPEAN DEIALOGUE WITH PRESIDENT NIXON IN FALL. BERKHOUWER ALSO UNCLASSIFIED

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CRITICIZED SUPER-POWER BILATERALISM, PARTICULARLY U.S.-SOVIET

TREATY TO PREVENT NUCLEAR WAR. END SUMMARY.

2. IN AUGUST 16 SPEECH TO CLUB DU JEUDI (HAGUE DIPLOMATS BELOW RANK OF AMBASSADOR), EP PRESIDENT BERKHOUWER TOOK EC GOVERNMENTS TO TASK ABOUT LACK OF POLITICAL DETERMINATION TO MAKE EC WORK EFFECTIVELY AND MOVE NINE ALONG TOWARD GOAL OF POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC UNION. HE SINGLED OUT DANES, BRITISH, GERMANS, IRISH AND FRENCH FOR SPECIFIC CRITICISM, BUT RESERVED SHARPEST BARBS FOR FRENCH. BERKHOUWER PREFACED THESE SPECIFIC REMARKS WITH EXPRESSION OF ASSUMPTION AND EXPECTATION THAT HIS VIEWS WOULD BE REPORTED BACK TO GOVTS OF DIPLOMATS PRESENT. BERKHOUWER MADE USUAL PLEA FOR INCREASING POWER OF EP BASED ON JUDGMENT THAT THAT PLUS DIRECT ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF EP WOULD INJECT ELEMENT OF DEMOCRATIC CONTROL AND POLITICAL REALITY NOW LACKING IN EC. BERKHOUWER EXPRESSED PARTICULAR SHOCK AND DISMAY OVER RECENT QUARRELS PUBLICLY AIRED BY BRITS, FRENCH AND GERMANS. BERKHOUWER FORCEFULLY DECLARED INTENTION OF EP TO PLAY WATCHDOG ROLE RE FOLLOW-ON TO OCTOBER 1972 EC SUMMIT TO ENSURE THAT ALL GOALS ARE PURSUED AND NOT MERELY PET ONES OF CERTAIN MEMBER STATES.

3. ONE OF CASES IN POINT CITED BY BERKHOUWER IN CRITICIZING POLITICAL INDECISIVENESS OF EC GOVTS WAS U.S. PROPOSAL ON DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES FOR U.S.-EUROPEAN RELATIONS AND UPCOMING VISIT TO EUROPE BY PRESIDENT NIXON. BERKHOUWER LAMENTED FACT THAT FOUR MONTHS HAVE GONE BY SINCE U.S. MADE PROPOSAL AND EUROPEANS ARE VIRTUALLY STILL AT SQUARE ONE RE RESPONSE, WITH ONLY FOUR MONTHS LEFT IN THIS YEAR OF EUROPE. AFTER TAKING FRENCH TO TASK REGARDING INABILITY OF NINE TO FORMULATE UNIFIED RESPONSE, BERKHOUWER SUGGESTED THAT EP WOULD BE IDEAL FORUM FOR PRESIDENT TO ENGAGE EUROPEANS IN DIALOGUE.

4. U.S. WAS NOT SPARED CRITICISM AS BERKHOUWER ATTACKED U.S.-SOVIET BILATERALISM OF KIND TYPIFIED BY TREATY ON PREVENTION OF NUCLEAR WAR WHICH RAISED QUESTIONS RE U.S. NUCLEAR GUARANTEE. BERKHOUWER CRITICIZED U.S. FOR NOT HAVING CONSULTED WITH ALLIES SUFFICIENTLY PRIOR TO NEGOTIATION OF TREATY AND FOR HAVING ARRANGED OCTOBER 30 OPENING DATE FOR MBFR NEGOTIATIONS ON BILATERAL BASIS WITH SOVIETS.

5. COMMENT: BERKHOUWER'S REMARKS STRIKE US AS MORE SIGNIFICANT
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FOR WHAT THEY INDICATE ABOUT BERKHOUWER AS A PERSON THEN FOR NOVELTY OF IDEAS EXPRESSED. IT IS CLEAR THAT BERKHOUWER INTENDS TO PLAY GADFLY ROLE IN EC. FACT THAT BERKHOUWER, WHO IS MEMBER OF DUTCH LIBERAL (CONSERVATIVE) PARTY, ATTACKED U.S.-SOVIET BILATERALISM IS FURTHER INDICATION THAT DUTCH CONCERNS ON THIS SUBJECT ARE NOT RESTRICTED TO THE LEFT.
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